

asked for the rare opportunity to purchase the Whitesburg operations, so he could raise his family at home in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The company accepted his offer and Childers Oil was born. Today, they employ over 1,000 people, including its full-service 24-hour convenience stores and affiliated companies.

The Childers Oil Company has always been a family venture with his wife, Peggy, leading kitchen recipes and retail operations. Their two daughters and son-in-law now play key roles in the company, and the third generation is coming on strong with a full understanding of their grandfather's business philosophy. This family-owned and operated business is also a wonderful steward of the communities they serve, partnering with numerous civic and charitable organizations every year, reinvesting in the region they love so much.

In addition to Don's work in the oil industry, he has tirelessly worked to bring additional jobs and opportunities to the region through his work on the Letcher County Planning Commission, which he established with a group of community leaders 17 years ago. They have patiently advocated for a federal corrections facility to be built in Letcher County to create hundreds of good-paying jobs in Eastern Kentucky. Knowing the additional opportunities that could arise with a new prison, Don also launched the Letcher County Airport Board to meet aviation needs in our mountainous terrain. He is a bold, visionary leader who has inspired many others to think out-of-the-box for innovative industry goals in Eastern Kentucky. Don is also a man of great faith, having dedicated more than 55 years as a member of the Whitesburg First Baptist Church.

I count it a great honor to celebrate Don Childers and his many accomplishments on his 90th birthday. I hope this year is filled with many more blessings for Don and his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUBY DE VERA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I share that the city of Los Angeles lost another angel earlier this year. Her name was Ruby de Vera and she was a community leader, an activist, and a fierce advocate in Northeast Los Angeles.

Ruby was a remarkable person who worked tirelessly as a champion in both City Hall and out in the community. She was a role model and a true public servant who epitomized the best qualities including courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Ruby's lifetime of dedication and service will be remembered and greatly missed by all whom she encountered and all those who were impacted by her leadership. May it bring comfort to her family, friends, and loved ones that so many are celebrating the life she led and praying for them at this time.

CHRISTIAN WOLFE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, ascending to the rank of Eagle Scout is an accomplishment unlike any other. Those involved with the Boy Scouts of America devote their lives to the organization's foundational principles of ethics and morals. They embody what it means to be "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight." However, their drive and motivation extend far beyond the organization's principles and into the classroom and community. What Christian has accomplished is a culmination of hard work and perseverance. He and his family should be incredibly proud. Make no mistake, his accomplishment serves as a testament to his grandfather's influence in his life. Congratulations on this stellar achievement. God Bless Christian and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MIKE RUMFIELD, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2021 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the timehonored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Private First Class Mike Rumfield of McKinney, Texas.

Originally from Santa Ana, California, Private First Class Michael Rumfield proudly served in the United States Army for which he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Air Assault Badge.

Following his time in service, Mike began a dedicated 20-year career in law enforcement holding positions as a Corrections Officer, Corrections Sergeant, Field Training Officer, SWAT member and Team Leader, Deputy Sheriff, and his current role as Collin County Chief Deputy Constable for Precinct 4. As a Chief Deputy Constable, Rumfield is dedicated to serving the citizens of Collin County in a fair and impartial manner to execute all court orders and to promote a safe and secure environment with the highest level of integrity.

In 2016, along with his wife, Lailani, Rumfield founded the America's Defenders

Foundation which supports disabled veterans that have answered the call of duty to the United States and who have defended our nation's values and families. The organization also maintains an intense motivation to support our nation's law enforcement officers. Their annual Thin Blue Line Ball provides hundreds of law enforcement officers and their spouses an evening of entertainment while raising funds to support their efforts. Additionally, as past President of the Collin County Deputies Association, Mike advocated for Collin County public safety officers while supporting members in times of need.

Chief Deputy Constable Mike Rumfield continues to make a difference in the lives of those whom he serves, and we recognize him for his efforts to support our military, veterans, and first responders.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Private First Class Rumfield for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF J.D. GROM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and leadership of J.D. Grom, Executive Director of the New Democrat Coalition.

J.D. began his tenure as Executive Director when I was Chair of the New Dems. I was immediately impressed by his work ethic, vision, and expertise—qualities that were obvious to everyone who had the opportunity to interact with J.D. over the years. I asked him to do a lot in terms of getting to know the members of the Coalition—what they care about and what's important to the districts they represent—and he stepped up, developing an exceptional understanding of the members and their priorities.

J.D. recently left Capitol Hill to join the Biden Administration in the Department of Commerce, and I know I speak for all members of the New Democrat Coalition when I say he'll be sorely missed.

New Dems have seen so much positive change and growth over the past eight years with J.D. at the helm. Made up of 95 members, New Dems play a critical role in Congress not only in advocating for pragmatic, pro-growth policies, but also in working to bridge the partisan divide and lower the temperature in Washington.

New Dems are focused on moving our nation forward by tackling some of our toughest challenges and delivering results for the American people. J.D.'s outstanding leadership has made these efforts possible.

After working for his hometown Representative, Melissa Bean of Illinois, the Department of Treasury, and four different New Dem Chairs, J.D. has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service that will carry him far in